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STATINTL

CONGRESS CAN KEEP A SECRET

(Mr. ROGERS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, former CIA Director Allen Dulles told the Magazine Publishers Association last Tuesday evening that he knew from experience that Congress could keep a secret.

To prove his point, Mr. Dulles revealed that he had told Congress about our U-2 flights some 5 years before one was shot down over Russia in May 1960.

I certainly agree with Mr. Dulles, and to prove my point I would like to cite the Hoover Commission report which recommended the establishment of a joint congressional watchdog committee to oversee the CIA. That report, transmitted to the Congress in 1955, showed the similarity between such a watchdog committee and the now existing Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, which has jurisdiction over our Nation's nuclear secrets. To my knowledge, there has never been an atomic secret which has leaked from that committee into alien hands.

We live in a free society. That is our Nation's strength. We are forced by world circumstances to engage in the clandestine affairs of international espionage, and have made exceptions to national principles where such efforts are necessary. When Congress created the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947, it granted the CIA privileged exemption from the scrutiny of a free society. However, Congress was painfully neglectful in not providing itself with a sufficient channel for communication and liaison with CIA stewardship.

And Congress knows that no Government agency should be left alone to police itself. Lack of congressional supervision only permits Government bureaus to follow an independent course of action—in effect, to bypass the Congress itself, leaving the American people with a diluted voice in their own affairs.

The CIA is the only Government bureau not subject to routine control by Congress. CIA activities should be given careful and regular review. Secrecy can be maintained in the Congress, and the right of congressional review in sensitive areas should not be questioned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of a joint House-Senate watchdog committee to give constant and needed review to the intelligence activities of this Nation.